<u>IN THE CLAIMS</u>:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. - 17. (canceled).

18. (currently amended): An information processing apparatus capable of communication with ~~one or more external~~ apparatuses connected thereto, comprising:

a USB device controller connectable with ~~the external~~ <u>a USB host</u> apparatus~~(es)~~ for controlling communication between the connected ~~external~~ <u>USB host</u> apparatus~~(es)~~ and said information processing apparatus;

a USB host controller connectable with ~~the external~~ <u>a USB device</u> apparatus~~(es)~~ for controlling communication between the connected ~~external~~ <u>USB device</u> apparatus~~(es)~~ and said information processing apparatus;

a connection unit having a plurality of connectors<u>,</u> ~~for connecting with the external apparatus(es)~~ <u>wherein</u> each ~~of which~~ <u>connecter</u> is <u>for</u> ~~connectable with any one of~~ ~~a~~ <u>the</u> USB host apparatus and [[a]] <u>the</u> USB device apparatus;

a control<u>ler</u> connected with <u>each of</u> a plurality of ~~external~~ apparatuses through said USB device controller [[and]] <u>or</u> said USB host controller; and

a switching unit for switching a connection between each of the ~~plurality of~~ connectors and one of said USB device controller and said USB host controller,

wherein said switching unit determines the type of the connected ~~external~~ apparatus<u> to the connector,</u> and if it is determined that the ~~a plurality of~~ connected ~~external~~

apparatus [[es]] is ~~include a~~ the USB device apparatus, ~~and USB host apparatus,~~ connects

the USB device apparatus with the USB host controller and, if it is determined that the

connected apparatus is the USB host apparatus, connects the USB host apparatus with the

USB device controller.

19. (currently amended): The information processing apparatus according

to claim 18,

wherein said connectors are AB type connectors in conformity with the

Universal Serial Bus communication standards, and

wherein if a B type connector is connected with said connection unit, said

switching unit determines that the ~~external~~ connected apparatus is the USB host apparatus.

20. (currently amended): The information processing apparatus according

to claim 18,

wherein said connectors are AB type connectors in conformity with the

Universal Serial Bus communication standards, and

wherein if an A type connector is connected with said connection unit, said

switching unit determines that the ~~external~~ connected apparatus is the USB device

apparatus.

21. (currently amended): The information processing apparatus according

to claim 18, further comprising:

a use status determination unit for determining a use status of said USB

device controller and said USB host controller; and

a warning unit for giving a warning to an operator of said information

processing apparatus, if said use status determination unit determines that said USB device

controller or said USB host controller is in use, and the controller, which is selected from

said USB device controller and USB host controller in correspondence with the type of the

~~external~~ connected apparatus determined by said switching unit and is connected with the

~~external~~ connected apparatus, is in use,

wherein said switching unit does not select said USB device controller and

USB host controller in use as said USB device controller and USB host controller

connected with the ~~external~~ connected apparatus.

22. (currently amended): The information processing apparatus according

to claim 21, wherein if said use status determination unit determines that said USB device

controller and USB host controller in use ~~has~~ have become not in use, said switching unit

selects said USB device controller and USB host controller that ~~has~~ have been in use as

said USB device controller and USB host controller connected with the ~~external~~ connected

apparatus.

23. (currently amended): A control method for an information processing

apparatus capable of communication with ~~one or more external~~ apparatuses connected

thereto, wherein the information processing apparatus comprises a USB device controller

connectable with ~~the external~~ a USB host apparatus for controlling communication

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between the connected ~~external~~ USB host apparatus and the information processing

apparatus, a USB host controller connectable with ~~the external~~ a USB device apparatus for

controlling communication between the connected ~~external~~ USB device apparatus and the

information processing apparatus, a connection unit having a plurality of connectors,

wherein ~~for connecting the external apparatus(es)~~ each ~~of which~~ connector is ~~connectable~~

~~with any one of a~~ for connecting the USB host apparatus and [[a]] the USB device

apparatus, and a control~~ler~~ connected with each of a plurality of ~~external~~ apparatuses

through the USB device controller [[and]] or the USB host controller, said method

comprising:

a switching step for switching a connection between each of the ~~plurality of~~

connectors and one of the USB device controller and the USB host controller, for

determining the type of the connected ~~external~~ apparatus, and if it is determined that the

~~plurality of~~ connected ~~external~~ apparatus~~es include a~~ is the USB device apparatus ~~and a~~

~~USB host apparatus~~, for connecting the USB device apparatus with the USB host controller

and, if it is determined that the connected apparatus is the USB host apparatus, for

connecting the USB host apparatus with the USB device controller;

a device control step for controlling, by means of the USB device controller,

communication between the USB host apparatus and the information processing apparatus;
and

a host control step for controlling, by means of the USB host controller,

communication between the USB device apparatus and the information processing

apparatus.

24. (currently amended): The control method according to claim 23, wherein the connectors are AB type connectors in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, and

wherein, if a B type connector is connected with the connection unit, it is determined in said switching step that the ~~external~~ <u>connected</u> apparatus is the USB host apparatus.

25. (currently amended): The control method according to claim 23, wherein the connectors are AB type connectors in conformity with the Universal Serial Bus communication standards, and

wherein, if an A type connector is connected with the connection unit, it is determined in said switching step that the ~~external~~ <u>connected</u> apparatus is the USB device apparatus.

26. (currently amended): The control method according to claim 23, further comprising:

an execution status determination step for determining an execution status of said device control step and said host control step; and

a warning step for giving a warning to an operator of the information processing apparatus, if it is determined in said execution status determination step that said device control step or said host control step is in execution, and the controller, which is selected in said switching step in correspondence with the type of the ~~external~~ <u>connected</u> apparatus determined in said switching step and controls communication between the

~~external~~ <u>connected</u> apparatus and the information processing apparatus, is such a controller that corresponds to the control step in execution,

wherein, in said switching step, the controller corresponding to said control step that is in execution is not selected as the controller for controlling communication between the ~~external~~ <u>connected</u> apparatus and the information processing apparatus.

27.   (currently amended): The control method according to claim 26, wherein, if it is determined in said use status determination step that said control step in execution is no longer in execution, the <u>USB device controller or the USB host</u> controller<u>,</u> <u>respectively,</u> corresponding to said control step that has been in execution is selected in said switching step as the controller for controlling communication between the external apparatus and the information processing apparatus.

28.   (previously presented): A computer-readable storage medium storing, in executable form, a control program for information processing apparatus for executing by means of a computer the control method according to claim 23.